Operationalisation of unused airstrips

142. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has embarked upon an ambitious plan to start operating some 21 unused airstrips across the country to clear air congestion and develop regional routes; and

(b) if so, the places where work on these airstrips will be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has plans to develop the unused airstrips for which AAI is entering into MoU's with various State Governments. Work has commenced in respect of the airports at Cooch-Behar in West Bengal and Mysore in Karnataka. At other places Airports Authority of India will undertake development works based on the traffic potential and signing of MoU with the concerned State Governments.

Draft guidelines for air-worthiness certificate

143. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent draft guidelines proposed by the DGCA give airlines the authority to renew the air-worthiness certificate of their aircraft on their own without having to go through the process of getting the aircraft certified by DGCA officers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this new draft is in complete violation of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) rule in Annexure 8 which deals with the safety of aircraft and passenger; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.